

# STARS AND STRIPES

Wednesday, April 16, 2003

A news digest for U.S. forces serving overseas

## U.S. troops raid house of 'Dr. Germ'

BY DAVID CRARY  
*The Associated Press*

U.S. special forces Wednesday raided the Baghdad home of a microbiologist nicknamed "Dr. Germ" who ran Iraq's secret biological laboratory. In the northern city of Mosul, tensions were high after anti-American unrest in which, according to U.S. Central Command, seven people were killed by U.S. troops.

In Washington, the Bush administration lowered the national terror alert level to "yellow" Wednesday for the first time since March 17, days before the war began.

The special forces raid in Baghdad, backed by about 40 Marines with machine guns, was carried out at the home of Rihab Taha, who was in charge of a laboratory that weaponized anthrax.

Troops brought out boxes of documents and three men with their hands up.

Taha is the wife of Gen. Amer Mohammed Rashid, Iraq's former oil minister. Her whereabouts weren't immediately known.

The incident in Mosul, which occurred Tuesday, was one of the worst involving U.S. troops and Iraqi civilians since Saddam Hussein's regime was toppled.

Brig. Gen. Vincent Brooks of the U.S. Central Command, at a briefing Wednesday, said American troops were trying to secure a government building when a crowd of townspeople began throwing rocks at them, hitting them with fists, spitting at them and setting cars afire.

He said some of the Americans fired back after shots were fired at them and some members of the crowd began trying to climb over a wall into the government compound.

"Fire was, indeed, delivered from coalition forces. It was lethal fire, and some Iraqis were killed ... on the order of seven," Brooks said. "The attacking was occurring from two sides and there was clear observation of men with weapons involved in firing on the building."

Another shooting occurred in Mosul on Wednesday; hospital officials said three people were killed and 11 wounded. Some of those wounded accused American troops of firing at them from rooftops, but a Marine sergeant denied that and said Americans on one roof were only returning gunfire from another building.

In a more upbeat development for U.S. troops, the overall commander of the war, Gen. Tommy Franks visited Baghdad on Wednesday, his first trip to the capital since combat.

Despite the start of joint U.S.-Iraqi police patrols in Baghdad, throngs of looters ransacked sacks of sugar, tea, flour and other food supplies Wednesday from warehouses at the International Fairgrounds.

Loot was piled into a red double decker bus, or stuffed into cars which soon became tangled in a traffic jam.

A U.S. armored personnel carrier was less than a mile away, but the soldiers did not intervene.

The looting came a day after small numbers of Iraqi policemen resumed law enforcement duties, and made their first arrest, in an American-backed effort to curtail the looting and lawlessness that has plagued Baghdad since Saddam Hussein's regime collapsed.

In one of the U.S. military's most successful policing actions yet, a Marine patrol passing the Iraqi National Bank caught armed robbers Tuesday and recovered \$3.6 million in U.S. currency.

Other Marine patrols conducted raids, sometimes accompanied by Iraqi police, to secure key infrastructure sites. U.S. forces are trying to provide security for hospitals and establish a cellphone service for emergency services to use while the regular telephone system is repaired.

In western Iraq, an U.S. Army cavalry unit accepted the surrender of the 12th Iraqi Brigade, seizing 40 tanks and close to 1,000 weapons, said Marine Maj. Stewart Upton, a U.S. Central Command spokesman. He said the number of prisoners taken had not yet been calculated.

Although major combat in Iraq is over, the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, Gen. Richard Myers, said he remains worried that Iraqi chemical or biological weapons could fall into the hands of terrorists.

The U.S. military is conducting far-flung searches of suspected illegal weapons sites, but so far has not confirmed finding any of the weapons of mass destruction the Bush administration says Iraq was hiding.

"We still have a lot of work to do in finding and securing weapons of mass destruction sites and making sure that those biological and chemical weapons don't fall in the hands of terrorists," Myers said Tuesday night on CNN's "Larry King Live."

U.S. officials announced that Abul Abbas, leader of the Palestinian group that killed an American on the hijacked cruise liner Achille Lauro in 1985, had been captured in a commando raid in Baghdad.

Brooks, at the Central Command briefing, said the capture of Abbas — whose real name is Mohammed Abbas — underscored the link between Saddam's regime and terrorism.

"The lawyers will take over and decide exactly what actions ought to be taken with Mr. Abbas from here on out," Brooks said.

"Our role was to remove terrorist from Iraq and break the terrorist connections that exist within Iraq. He is part of that terrorist connection."

U.S. officials would not disclose their plans for Abbas, captured during one of several commando raids Monday on hideouts of the Palestine Liberation Front. Commandos captured several associates of Abbas, as well as documents and weapons.

The Palestinian Authority on Wednesday demanded Abbas' release, saying his arrest violated a 1995 interim agreement between Israel and the Palestinians that was signed by then-President Clinton.

According to the deal, no PLO officials were to be arrested for violent acts committed before the 1993 Israel-PLO pact of mutual recognition, said a Palestinian Cabinet minister, Saeb Erekat.

## Troops focus on hunt for weapons of mass destruction

BY DAVID JACKSON  
*The Dallas Morning News*

WASHINGTON — With most of the fighting done in Iraq, American forces are searching for proof to back President Bush's main justification for the invasion: Weapons of mass destruction.

So far, no confirmed chemical or biological weapons have been discovered, and some suspect sites have yielded nothing more than pesticides and agricultural products.

While Bush administration officials said the military is just beginning to look for the easily hidden weapons, some analysts said failure to find "WMD" would give critics ammunition to continue challenging the legitimacy of the war.

"If we don't find a substantial stockpile of weapons of mass destruction, it is going to severely damage the president's credibility and the prestige of the United States," said Joseph Cirincione, director of the non-proliferation project with the Washington-based Carnegie Endowment for International Peace.

Military officials expressed confidence that would not be a problem.

"We remain convinced that there are weapons of mass destruction inside of Iraq, and we remain unwavering in our view of that," said Brig. Gen. Vincent Brooks, deputy director of operations for U.S. Central Command in Qatar.

During a speech at the White House, Bush listed the mission to "destroy the



ANJA NIEDRINGHAUS/AP

**U.S. special operations troops search for weapons and bomb-making materials Tuesday in a building believed to belong to the Iraqi Ministry of Intelligence in Baghdad.**

former regime's weapons of mass destruction" as one of the many challenges associated with the "difficult work of helping Iraqis to build a free and stable country."

"These tasks will take effort, and these tasks will take time," Bush said.

U.S.-led forces are intensifying their search for illegal weapons, officials said. While officials said the combat phase of Operation Iraqi Freedom is mostly over, troops continue to skirmish with Iraqi resisters, and are also trying to find out whether deposed dic-

tator Saddam Hussein is dead or in hiding.

"Now the work of removing the weapons of mass destruction can begin in earnest," Brooks said. "And that work is ongoing as I speak."

Special teams are scouring industrial sites, wielding special chemical and radiological detectors, officials said. Tests are already being done on certain samples, but they have yielded no conclusions.

The United States is also searching for or interviewing Iraqi scientists who can lead them to weapons caches.

The search for illegal weapons — and government officials who can lead troops to them — is one of the reasons the United States warned Syria not to harbor fugitives from the Saddam regime, officials said.

Secretary of State Colin Powell, again accusing Syria of developing its own chemical weapons program, said, "We hope that Syria understands now that there is a new environment in the region with the end of the regime of Saddam Hussein."

Syria has denied allegations of illegal weapons production, as did members of the Saddam regime.

Troops in Iraq have found evidence of chemical and biological weapons development, including empty warheads and other delivery systems, as well as special protective suits belonging to the Iraqi military. But they have found no actual chemical or biological weapons, nor evidence that Saddam had revived his nuclear program.

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## Latest developments

■ U.S. special forces raided the Baghdad home of microbiologist Rihab Taha, nicknamed "Dr. Germ," who ran Iraq's secret biological laboratory. Troops brought out boxes of documents and three men with their hands up. Taha's whereabouts weren't immediately known.

■ Looters defied the launch of joint U.S.-Iraqi police patrols and ransacked food from a major Baghdad warehouse complex Wednesday. Elsewhere in the city, residents went shopping or sat in cafes, signs that life was slowly returning to normal.

■ A Marine patrol passing the Iraqi National Bank caught armed robbers and recovered \$3.6 million in U.S. currency. Other Marines conducted raids, sometimes accompanied by Iraqi police, to secure infrastructure sites.

■ Iraqis from a number of different factions — exiles, Shiites, Sunnis, tribal leaders — began discussions Tuesday in the ancient city of Ur on the shape of a future government. They agreed that Iraq should be democratic and will meet again in 10 days.

■ U.S. officials announced that Abul Abbas, leader of the Palestinian group that killed an American on the hijacked cruise liner Achille Lauro in 1985, had been captured in a commando raid in Baghdad.

■ The chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, Air Force Gen. Richard Myers, warned that Iraqi chemical or biological weapons could still fall into the hands of terrorists.

■ In northern Iraq, U.S. officers tried to determine details of an armed confrontation in the city of Mosul in which 10 people were reportedly killed. The New York Times quoted Iraqis as saying Marines fired into a crowd of civilians, but Navy Capt. Frank Thorp, spokesman for U.S. Central Command, said that was not true.

From The Associated Press

## NATO to take over Afghan mission

The Associated Press

BRUSSELS, Belgium — NATO ambassadors offered Wednesday to take command of the peacekeeping mission in Afghanistan.

NATO spokesman Yves Brodeur said the 19 alliance members agreed to requests made by Germany, the Netherlands and Canada that it take a role in running a command headquarters for the ongoing operation in the Afghan capital Kabul.

Germany had requested that NATO take over the mission — now under joint Dutch-German command — for the sake of consistency.

"There was a growing problem in having to switch command every six months, and there are only a limited number of nations that can lead such a mission," said Brodeur. "The enlarged NATO role is going to help overcome this problem."

The force has rotated from nation to nation since it first was deployed in December 2001 after the ouster of the Taliban regime.

NATO will send military personnel and a military commander to run the operation. It will not be under a NATO flag, but will remain under the U.N.-sanctioned International Security Assistance Force known as ISAF.

Other non-NATO military forces will also be invited to contribute, officials said.

NATO was expected to take command of the 4,000 strong force sometime in late summer at the earliest, the official said.

## Business

**New charges for WorldCom CFO:** The government filed new bank fraud charges Wednesday against former WorldCom chief financial officer Scott Sullivan, accusing him of lying on financial statements to secure \$4.25 billion in credit for the company.

Sullivan was already charged with ordering WorldCom accountants to move operating expenses off the books, making the company appear profitable when it was losing money. He has pleaded innocent to the charges.

Sullivan, 40, who lives in Boca Raton, Fla., is free on \$10 million bail on the original charges.

**American Airlines wages:** American Airlines flight attendants were given one more day to approve wage cuts and other concessions the airline says it needs to avoid bankruptcy, after their union said they narrowly rejected the deal.

Members of American's two other major unions — pilots and ground workers — approved concessions Tuesday, but the flight attendants' union said its members had rejected concessions by fewer than 500 votes among 19,000 cast.

## States

**Rhode Island nightclub fire:** Private fire investigators have finished searching the site of a deadly nightclub fire and are briefing civil lawyers on what they found, attorneys said.

Attorney Mark Decof said Tuesday the private investigators were in the process of identifying nearly 500 materials that were found.

Decof and other lawyers representing victims' families and survivors of the fire are interested in materials such as foam and carpeting that may have contributed to the fire's rapid spread.

The Feb. 20 fire killed 99 people and injured nearly 200 more.

Decof, who has not yet filed any lawsuits, said the identification process would take about two weeks.

**Shuttle investigators shift focus:** Columbia accident investigators have shifted their focus farther down the space shuttle's left wing and onto a seal that may have developed a slit large enough to let in deadly heat.

The seal is close to where the investigation board believes a chunk of foam insulation hit during liftoff, and the impact could have broken or weakened the seal and all or part of it may have floated away from Columbia during its second day in orbit. Such a gap could have led to the ship's destruction two weeks later during descent.

**FBI lab woes persist:** Weeks after testifying at a court hearing in a Kentucky murder, FBI scientist Kathleen Lundy told her superiors a secret. She knowingly gave false testimony about her specialty of lead bullet analysis.

"I had to admit that it was worse than being evasive or not correcting the record. It was simply not telling the truth," Lundy wrote her superior in an e-mail likely to be used against her now that she has been charged by Kentucky authorities on a charge of misdemeanor false swearing.

Internal FBI documents obtained by The Associated Press show the FBI lab, which reformed itself after a mid-1990s scandal over bad science, is grappling with new problems that have opened its work on lead bullets and DNA analysis to challenges by defense lawyers.

**David Duke in jail:** Former Ku Klux Klan leader David Duke turned himself in to a federal prison Tuesday to begin a 15-month sentence for mail and tax fraud.

Duke, who was driven to the west Texas prison in a light brown Jeep, did not appear to acknowledge about

## News tracker: What's new with old news

eight admirers outside who waved signs that read "Duke for President" and "Free David Duke."

Duke, a former Louisiana state representative who ran for governor and the U.S. Senate about a decade ago, did not speak with reporters at the prison but said in a telephone interview Monday that he was ready to meet the terms of a plea agreement finalized in December.

Duke will have two years of supervised release after he gets out of prison. His criminal record will prevent him from seeking office in Louisiana for 15 years.

**Rodney King injured:** Rodney King, whose videotaped beating led to the deadly 1992 riots in Los Angeles, was hospitalized with a broken pelvis after he lost control of his SUV while weaving through traffic at 100 mph and crashed into a house in Rialto, Calif., police said.

King, 39, was spotted Sunday by a police officer who said King was speeding and weaving through traffic in his 2003 Ford Expedition when he slammed into a utility pole, a chain-link fence and then the home, police said.

Police said they suspect that King was intoxicated, and a blood sample was drawn to determine his blood-alcohol level.

## World

**Gaza closed; Sharon ready for talks:** Israel closed off the West Bank and Gaza Strip on Wednesday to protect against attacks, while Prime Minister Ariel Sharon vowed to invite his Palestinian counterpart for talks as soon as he is sworn in as prime minister.

Sharon also pledged not to miss an opportunity for peace created by the Iraq war but set a string of conditions the Palestinians would have to meet for negotiations to succeed. He was evasive on whether he would dismantle dozens of illegal outposts set up in recent years by Israeli settlers in a West Bank land grab.

**Milosevic linked to terror campaigns:** Slobodan Milosevic's secret service ordered terror campaigns in Bosnia and Croatia that were bankrolled by the former Yugoslav president, a protected witness testified Wednesday at the U.N. war crimes tribunal.

The witness, identified only as a secretary for the feared wartime leader of the "Tigers" paramilitary group, said she had kept a diary of the bloody operations of Zeljko Raznatovic, better known as Arkan.

The Tigers took their orders directly from the state security and Milosevic's wartime security chiefs, Jovica Stanisic and Franko Simatovic, the witness said.

"Arkan always told me that without orders from the state security, the Tigers never went anywhere," she said.

Milosevic, on trial for 66 counts of war crimes in Croatia, Bosnia and Kosovo during the Balkan wars of the 1990s, denies responsibility for atrocities by the Serb militias. The third stage of his trial, covering allegations of genocide in Bosnia, began last week.

**Accused man denies killing 2 girls:** The man accused of killing two 10-year-old girls pleaded guilty Wednesday in London to conspiring to pervert the course of justice, but denied charges of murder.

Ian Huntley, 29, a former school caretaker, faces trial for the deaths of Holly Wells and Jessica Chapman. The girls were found dead two weeks after they were reported missing on Aug. 4.

Huntley appeared in London's Old Bailey criminal court with his former girlfriend Maxine Carr, 26, who denied two charges of assisting an offender and one charge of conspiring with Huntley to pervert the course of justice.

**Indonesian separatists:** Indonesia on Tuesday accused separatists in Aceh province of violating a peace accord, while top security officials met to consider military options should the truce collapse.

Still, the government and Free Aceh Movement say they are committed to the peace process. They have agreed to hold talks later this month aimed at ironing out differences over the Dec. 9 accord.

Aceh military commander Maj. Gen. Djali Yusuf reiterated government claims that the rebels were campaigning for independence in violation of the peace agreement. He said this could not be tolerated and that the military was ready to respond.

**Serbia assassination probe:** Worried about possible abuses against some of the 2,000 suspects arrested in connection with the assassination of Serbia's prime minister, international officials on Tuesday toured facilities where the detainees are held.

Upon the invitation of Serbia's government, human rights experts from the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, along with officials from the U.N. High Commissioner for Human Rights, toured three locations in the capital.

**OPEC plans:** OPEC members will discuss "all scenarios" to keep oil prices stable, the president of the group said Tuesday, keeping the idea of production cuts alive despite warnings that such a move could be premature.

Oil ministers for the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries, worried about a possible price crash, will be holding an emergency gathering next week in Vienna, Austria.

## War on terrorism

**Kuwaiti denies contents of confession:** An extremist charged with murdering a U.S. citizen denied in court Wednesday the validity of a taped confession in which he said he did not regret the crime and would do it again.

The defendant, Sami al-Mutairi, 25, has pleaded innocent to charges of murder and attempted murder for the Jan. 21 shooting of two Americans under contract to the U.S. military.

Michael Rene Pouliot, 46, was killed near Camp Doha, the main U.S. military base in Kuwait, and David Caraway, 37, was seriously wounded. Both were employed by a software company based in San Diego, Calif.

In a taped statement played in court Wednesday, a bearded al-Mutairi said: "I'm convinced of what I did. ... I don't regret it."

Asked if he would do the same again if he were released, he replied: "Certainly."

He testified in court Wednesday that police officers prepared the statement and forced him to read it before a video camera.

**Abu Sayyaf rebels killed:** Philippine troops stormed a suspected Muslim rebel hide-out and killed four guerrillas on an island where U.S. troops are expected to hold training exercises later this year, an army commander said Tuesday.

Two soldiers were also wounded when troops clashed with about 40 Abu Sayyaf rebels in the village of Niyog Sangahan on Jolo island about 584 miles south of Manila, said Col. Alexander Aleo.

**Philippines sending help:** A Philippine advance team will meet U.S. military officials in Qatar next week to finalize plans for a 500-member peacekeeping and humanitarian mission being sent to Iraq, officials said Tuesday.

The mission will consist of 300 soldiers and 100 police, along with government health and social workers, Defense Secretary Angelo Reyes said in a statement.

From wire reports



# What's new around the war

## Terror alert lowered to yellow

WASHINGTON — The Bush administration lowered the national terror alert level to "yellow" Wednesday, saying the end of heavy fighting in Iraq has reduced the threat of terrorist attacks.

Some security measures around the country will be relaxed, officials said. It was unclear whether the heightened alert had prevented any terrorism.

The yellow level signifies an elevated risk of terrorist attacks. It is the middle level on the five-tier danger scale. The old level, orange, marks a high risk, and is the second-highest level.

Still, a significant threat remains, officials said. "We must be vigilant and alert to the possibility that al-Qaida and those sympathetic to their cause, as well as former Iraqi-regime state agents and affiliated organizations, may attempt to conduct attacks against the U.S. or our interests abroad," Homeland Security Secretary Tom Ridge said in a statement.

## Baghdad, other cities normalizing

BAGHDAD, Iraq — After days in which her city was convulsed with war, bombing, looting and arson, Tadamoun Abdel-Aziz went shopping for the first time in more than a week, buying a package of 30 eggs, some bread and vegetables.

With looting and mayhem subsiding, the Iraqi capital and other major cities are mostly returning to normal, as evidenced by this veiled Baghdad woman, who ventured outside Tuesday to find once-shuttered stores reopened.

Many stores closed after the war started on March 20, and with the collapse of Saddam Hussein's regime on April 9 — and the ensuing chaos — most stayed shuttered. Some were set on fire by looters.

On Tuesday, however, scores of people roamed the downtown Irkheita Market to buy meat, vegetables and fruit, while others sat in cheap restaurants eating grilled meat or drank tea in coffee shops.

Nevertheless, many grocers said their shelves remained half-empty because the Shorja market, their main supplier and Baghdad's largest market, was still closed.

It could take weeks to fully restore Iraq's power grid and water system, though some cities are already showing good progress, said U.S. Army Lt. Col. Kevin Kille, operations officer at the coalition's Humanitarian Operations Center in Kuwait.

Access to water and electricity is generally better in cities that were the first to fall, such as Umm Qasr and Karbala, and worse in those taken later, like the northern cities of Mosul and Kirkuk.

Initially, power was restored in Iraq's cities through portable generators, and water was brought in by aid workers. But the focus has now turned to repairing the infrastructure so towns are self-sufficient.

About 40 percent of Baghdad is now getting power at least part of the day, Kille said.

## Violence in Mosul fatal for 2nd day

MOSUL, Iraq — A shooting in this northern city killed three people and wounded at least 11 on Wednesday, a day after seven Iraqis died during what U.S. officials called an effort by American troops to keep an angry crowd from storming a government complex.

Few details of Wednesday's incident were immediately available, but some Iraqis blamed U.S. troops. The shooting appeared to have taken place at an open-air market about 300 to 400 yards from the governor-general's office.

Tensions have been high in Mosul, a city of 700,000 people where Arabs and Kurds are highly suspicious of each other. Many of the area's Arabs also have a strong affinity for nearby Syria, which has drawn intense criticism in recent days from Washington.

At the U.S. Central Command in Qatar, Brig. Gen. Vincent Brooks said Tuesday's bloodshed occurred as American special operations soldiers and Marines were trying to secure a government building for use as a meeting center.

He said that when a group of Marines arrived at the walled compound, people threw rocks at the troops, punched and elbowed them, and spat at them. He said an Iraqi ambulance with loudspeakers arrived later and began urging on the crowd, which turned over a car and set it on fire.

Brooks said the U.S. troops guarding the wall fired warning shots after seeing some people in the crowd shooting weapons into the air. The Americans then were shot at and began firing at some people in the crowd, including some who tried to climb over the wall, he said.

"It was lethal fire, and some Iraqis were killed as a result of that," Brooks said. "We think the number is somewhere on the order of seven, and there may have been some wounded as well."

Several of those wounded in Wednesday's incident accused American troops of firing at them from rooftops, but a Marine sergeant near the scene denied that. He said U.S. troops on top of a building came under fire from gunmen on another building across a park and the Americans shot back.

## Armless Iraqi boy gets skin grafts

KUWAIT CITY — Kuwaiti doctors performed plastic surgery Wednesday on a 12-year-old Iraqi boy who lost his arms and was burned during the U.S. bombardment of Baghdad and became a symbol of Iraqi suffering during the war.

Ali Ismael Abbas moaned in pain and begged his nurses for water after the 1-hour, 15-minute operation in which doctors scraped away infected and dead tissue and replaced it with temporary grafts of skin from a donor.

"Pain. I'm in pain," the boy cried, wrapped from his neck down in dressings. Pushing aside an oxygen mask with his teeth and tongue so he could be heard, he begged: "Water. Water."

Ali was given painkillers and sips of water. Doctors predicted that the temporary grafts could be replaced permanently with skin from his back and buttocks next Monday.

"His prognosis is good," said Dr. Imad Najada, the plastic surgeon who performed the operation at the Saud A. Albabtain Center for Burns and Plastic Surgery. "About 35 percent of his body is burned. We have treated patients with up to 85 and 90 percent with good survival."

Ali suffered severe burns and lost his arms when a missile struck his home in Baghdad late last month during the U.S. siege of the Iraqi capital, killing his father, siblings and pregnant mother.

Several charities worldwide have offered to help pay for the treatment and prostheses.

## Official: Cost of war \$20B so far

WASHINGTON — The Pentagon has spent about \$20 billion so far in the war against Iraq, a senior official said Wednesday.

Dov Zakheim, the Pentagon's comptroller, said at least several billion dollars more will be spent getting combat troops back home.

He offered no estimate of the cost of stabilizing and rebuilding Iraq.

At a Pentagon news conference, Zakheim said military operations in Iraq to date have cost about \$10 billion. Personnel costs have been about \$6 billion and the cost of munitions has been more than \$3 billion.

He provided no exact figures but said the total was close to \$20 billion.

## EU seek to heal rift with U.S.

ATHENS, Greece — France, Germany, Britain and Spain sought to ease differences over Iraq on Wednesday by suggesting the European Union issue an appeal for the United States and its coalition allies to maintain law and order there.

Officials said the four drafted a statement also asking Washington to publish a long-delayed Middle East "roadmap" to peace and a call for Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat not to hinder efforts by his prime minister-designate, Mahmoud Abbas, to form a Cabinet.

The statement was drafted on the sidelines of a summit at which 10 candidate nations signed EU accession treaties.

Officials said the four co-sponsors were hoping all 15 EU nations would endorse the statement.

Separately, U.N. Secretary-General Kofi Annan and Russian Foreign Minister Igor Ivanov also called for release of the "road map" as soon as the Abbas government is formed.

The leaders of Denmark, the Netherlands and Spain — three backers of the U.S.-led war — also suggested they may send troops to help stabilize Iraq, as Annan was reportedly making progress in sorting out his organization's postwar role.

"There is a desperate need for stabilization forces in Iraq, here and now," said Danish Prime Minister Anders Fogh Rasmussen. "We cannot wait for a U.N. resolution."

## Syria denies U.S. charges

DAMASCUS, Syria — Syria is continuing a quiet, constructive diplomacy with the United States that belies the tone of U.S. accusations that Syria is sheltering members of the toppled Iraqi regime and harboring chemical weapons, a Foreign Ministry spokeswoman said Wednesday.

"Things are not so bad ... The diplomatic channels are much quieter and much more constructive," Foreign

Ministry spokeswoman Bouthayna Shaaban said.

"I really take all these statements with a positive tinge to them. The objective is to engage and talk about issues rather than to threaten."

In recent days, senior U.S. officials, including President Bush, stepped up criticism of Syria, accusing it of providing Iraq with war material, giving haven to senior Iraqi officials and permitting foreign fighters to join the war against the U.S.-led coalition.

Syria's government has denied the allegations, but the charges raised concerns among some people that Syria could be the next U.S. target.

## 4th Infantry sees combat

TAJI AIR BASE, Iraq — Members of the U.S. Army's 4th Infantry Division engaged in combat Wednesday for the first time since the Vietnam War, fighting Iraqi paramilitaries and armed men in civilian clothes at Taji air base north of the capital, killing four and taking at least two dozen prisoners.

As tanks and Bradley fighting vehicles rolled into the air base at about 10 a.m., they spotted two men in civilian clothes loading ammunition into a sport utility vehicle, then darting into a bunker, said Col. Don Campbell, commander of the 4th Infantry's 1st Brigade.

A tank with the 1st Squadron, 10th Cavalry fired on the bunker.

The two men came running out and tried to escape in the vehicle, but it was hit by another American tank round. The two other men who were killed were in a bunker shot by a tank, Campbell said.

Several of the Iraqis had fired on American troops with AK-47s, but there were no U.S. casualties. Six Iraqis were wounded, Campbell said.

The exchange came after elements of the 4th pushed through the Iraqi capital overnight Wednesday and set up near the airfield 19 miles northwest of downtown Baghdad after 40 straight hours on the road from southern Iraq. Troops also pulled down a golden statue of Saddam Hussein at the front gate.

The division was supposed to invade Iraq from the north through Turkey. But the Turkish Parliament refused to let the United States use Turkey as a staging ground for the war, so it went through Kuwait.

## C-17 crew helps ship aid to Iraqis

RAMSTEIN AIR BASE, Germany — With little fanfare, the first shipment of humanitarian aid from Ramstein Air Base was loaded on a C-17 Globemaster and flown to northern Iraq on Tuesday. It took two trips, after the first C-17 crew had to turn back to Germany before dawn on Wednesday because of standing water on the Bashur airfield.

By the end of the day Wednesday, however, a fresh crew had ferried the 10 pallets of food from Rhein-Main Air Base to Bashur, where it would be delivered to Iraqis in need.

Although the Air Force didn't trumpet its role in delivering the food, the initial C-17 crew was fully aware of the special nature of their mission.

As the aircraft growled through the night skies, Senior Airman Kevin Duffy, a lanky loadmaster from Emmett, Idaho, took out his disposable camera and snapped a picture of the boxes labeled "A Food Gift from the People of the United States of America."

Duffy, 22, said he didn't make a habit of taking pictures of all the tanks, cargo and people the crew, based at McChord Air Force Base, Wash., carried forward for the war. This cargo was different.

"It's something I can tell people about," Duffy, 22, said.

The 8th Airlift Squadron, one of only two C-17 units in the Air Force, has been working pretty much non-stop since Operation Enduring Freedom began.

Loadmaster Airman 1st Class Ryan Boehm of Pittsburgh has flown 700 hours in a year of duty, more than twice that of most crews. Boehm, 22, has been to 50 countries since he joined the Air Force two years ago.

"The older guys in the squadron say I got in at the wrong time," Boehm said.

Hanson, 29, said it feels good to deliver the aid, which at 102,000 pounds nearly maxed out the C-17's capacity. More than 38,000 individual food packages were on the plane.

"It's satisfying to see the progress and to know that there is the shift from war to peace," Hanson said.

Although Operation Iraqi Freedom appears to be moving toward a peacetime mission, Hanson said his crew won't get a break any time soon. They carried the troops and equipment down to the war, and they'll carry it back. Plus, they'll keep U.S. troops supplied as long as they are in the region.

"As long as people are down there, the flow never stops," Hanson said from the C-17's cockpit. "There really is no sense of homecoming for us. We just keep coming and going."

From staff and wire reports

## Injured Marine: Iraqi civilians helped, hindered

BY PANOS KAKAVIATOS

*The Associated Press*

LANDSTUHL, Germany — Even in the tense days when U.S. forces were gaining control of Baghdad, civilians helped warn Marine guards at a checkpoint that a suicide bomber was approaching, a wounded U.S. Marine recalled Wednesday.

U.S. Marine Cpl. David McCallen, 23, of Columbus, Ohio, received shrapnel wounds in the April 10 attack at a U.S. checkpoint in northern Baghdad. He was one of four Marines wounded, but he says it could have been worse.

"The civilians noticed one man running up on us ... strapped with explosives. He got within just a few feet of us and detonated himself," McCallen said. "The civilians, they helped us out. They saved a number of people from getting hurt."

McCallen also said the crowds of civilians welcoming U.S. troops created an uneasy environment for the advancing allies — creating a distraction as well as cover for Iraqi soldiers who were discarding their uniforms.

"Our fight is not with the Iraqi people. Our fight is with Saddam's regime," he said at a news conference. "At the same time, you've got those individuals who are fighting us, they're dropping their uniforms so you have to watch who you are dealing with."

McCallen, of the 1st Marine Division based at Camp Pendleton in San Diego, is one of 223 U.S. troops wounded in the war against Iraq who has been treated at the Landstuhl Regional Medical Center in southwestern Germany, the U.S. military's largest hospital abroad.

"As for my next move, I'm not ready to move. This is like vacation out here. I'm laying around in a bed, getting fed and getting taken care of. Why do I want to go anywhere else?" he said.

Another Marine from McCallen's unit who took six bullets in a firefight also is being treated at Landstuhl. Pfc. Michael Wayne Meyer, 18, of Austin, Texas, didn't make it all the way to Baghdad, but he says he has no regrets.

"Coming home alive" was his main goal, he said.

Meyer was helping unload equipment when his unit came under fire. He was shot eight times, but two were stopped by the breastplate in his flak jacket.

"Usually in a reserve platoon, [we] don't have much to worry about because Iraqis have given up or run away by the time you need the reserve. ... We were taking sniper fire. ... My bullet-proof vest ended up saving my life."

# U.S. weighs options for Abul Abbas

BY MATT KELLEY

*The Associated Press*

WASHINGTON — American officials on Wednesday weighed options for handling terrorist mastermind Abul Abbas as Italy prepared to seek his extradition and the Palestinian Authority demanded his release.

U.S. officials would not disclose their plans for Abbas, captured by American special operations forces Monday night in Iraq during one of several raids in and around Baghdad. The raids on hideouts of Abbas' Palestine Liberation Front also nabbed other suspects and turned up weapons including rocket-propelled grenades, passports from Yemen and Lebanon and other documents, military officials said.

U.S. officials view Abbas' capture as a major win in the war on terrorism and a vindication of President Bush's charge that Saddam Hussein's regime in Iraq was harboring terrorists.

No matter where they take Abbas — his real name is Mohammed Abbas — his American captors are sure to grill him about his ties to other terrorists and Saddam, who sheltered Abbas for years.

"Justice will be served," said Marine Maj. Brad Bartelt, a spokesman for U.S. Central Command.

Abbas' interrogators also will want to hear about the 1985 hijacking of the Achille Lauro cruise ship in the Mediterranean Sea, during which an elderly American passenger, Leon Klinghoffer, was shot to death and dumped overboard in his wheelchair. Abbas was convicted by an Italian court in absentia for plotting the hijacking and sentenced to life in prison.

Italian Justice Minister Roberto Castelli said Wednesday his country will seek Abbas' extradition.

"Now we know he has been captured in Iraq, but that he's in the hands of American authorities. We will have to clarify some legal questions as to whom to request the extradition, which we'll do as soon as possible," he said.

Klinghoffer's daughters, Lisa and Ilse Klinghoffer, said Wednesday on NBC's "Today" show that they want Abbas returned to the United States for trial and sentencing.

"We want him brought here, and we want him tried here, in our country, and we want to know that he's going to serve his full sentence, which is hopefully a life sentence," said Lisa Klinghoffer.

The Palestinian Authority demanded Abbas' release, saying his arrest violat-

## Mastermind's acts very extreme

*The Associated Press*

CAIRO, Egypt — From a deadly act of piracy in the Mediterranean Sea to an attempt to infiltrate Israel by hot-air balloon, Abul Abbas found no method too drastic to strike a blow for the Palestinian cause.

But it was that very taste for the extreme that made even radicals within the Palestinian power structure blanch — and probably ended up making Abbas, who was captured Monday by U.S. forces in Baghdad, more of a liability to their movement than an asset.

Abbas' most notorious coup was the storming of the Achille Lauro cruise ship off Egypt's Port Said in 1985. Militants shot American Leon Klinghoffer in his wheelchair and tossed him overboard.

The attack reinforced the image of the Palestinian cause as a movement of terror — no matter that the mastermind was leader of the Palestinian Liberation Front, a splinter group of Yasser Arafat's more moderate PLO.

After the attack, Abbas, 55, proved a slippery quarry. Even after his conviction in an Italian court, Abbas popped up throughout the Middle East, fielding reporters' questions without any fear.

The Abbas plot that did most damage to Palestinian hopes came in 1990, two years after Arafat renounced terrorism and amid nascent dialogue between Washington and

the Palestinian Liberation Organization.

Armed PLF militants raced toward Nizzanim beach in southern Israel, only to be intercepted by the Israeli Navy. The most notable outcome of the bungled attack was a break-off of peace talks.

While out of the limelight for the past decade, Abbas is believed to have continued plying the terror trade from Iraq up to the time of his capture Monday in a raid on the southern outskirts of Baghdad.

Israeli intelligence officials say the PLF faction under Abbas was a conduit for Saddam Hussein's payments to the families of Palestinian suicide bombers.

Abbas, whose real name is Mohammed Abbas, was born in 1948 in the Yarmouk Palestinian refugee camp in Syria after his family fled from their home in Tira, near Haifa, when the state of Israel was created.

He fought as a guerrilla, as often against rival Palestinian factions as the Israelis. But Abbas and others felt that group was focusing too much on political philosophy rather than armed struggle.

In 1976, Abbas took his followers to form a new faction, the Palestine Liberation Front.

In 1981, Abbas' group launched the first attempt to infiltrate Israel by air. Two PLF guerrillas flew motorized hang gliders from south Lebanon into northern Israel in an abortive bid to attack an oil refinery near Haifa.

ed a 1995 interim agreement between Israel and the Palestinians that also was signed by then-U.S. President Clinton.

According to the deal, no PLO officials were to be arrested for violent acts committed before the 1993 Israel-PLO pact of mutual recognition, said a Palestinian Cabinet minister, Saeb Erekat.

Erekat said Abbas has visited Palestinian areas repeatedly since 1996 with Israeli and U.S. acquiescence.

Before his capture Monday night, Abbas had tried twice to flee Iraq through Syria but was turned away, Palestinian officials close to the guerrilla leader's organization said Wednesday. They said he also had tried to get into Iran.

Abbas and his small faction had been relatively quiet in the decade after the Achille Lauro hijacking. But in recent years his group has been a conduit for some of the \$35 million Sadd-

am's regime paid to families of Palestinian suicide bombers. Israeli officials also have accused the PLF and Abbas of training would-be terrorists at a camp in Iraq for potential attacks, including firing shoulder-launched missiles at civilian airliners.

Bush mentioned Abbas in an October speech in which he outlined the United States' argument for removing Saddam from power.

Abbas, 55, had eluded arrest since four of his followers hijacked the Achille Lauro as it sailed from Egypt to Israel in October 1985. They demanded that Israel release 50 imprisoned Palestinians.

During the hijacking, his followers shot and killed Klinghoffer, 69. The hijackers then tossed Klinghoffer and his wheelchair off the cruise ship.

The hijacking ended after Egypt and representatives of the Palestine Liberation Organization negotiated with the hijackers.

## POWs: Individuals now an inseparable team

*The Associated Press*

KUWAIT CITY — One is a supply truck driver who had never been out of Texas before finding himself in Iraq. Another is a single mother of a 2-year-old. A third is an Apache helicopter pilot whose father fought in Vietnam.

The seven American POWs rescued this week in Iraq had vastly different backgrounds and responsibilities within the armed forces.

Thrown together by adversity, they are now inseparable. "They became a team. They want to stay together as a team. The military has sayings for that — 'You never leave your wingman.' 'You never leave your buddy,'" said Col. Mark McGuire, the medical officer who attended to the former POWs when they arrived in Kuwait.

The seven are unlikely to be pulled apart, at least until they return to the United States and make their way home to families and local communities waiting to hold reunions and parades in their honor.

Since arriving in Kuwait City on Sunday after their dramatic rescue from a house south of the Iraqi city of Tikrit, the former POWs have been kept away from news media and undergone medical checks, both physical and mental, and debriefings.

The six men and one woman — five of them comrades of

POW Jessica Lynch from the ambushed 507th Maintenance Support Company, the other two a downed helicopter crew — are in good shape and may not require stopover care in Europe before being flown home to the United States, McGuire said. No timeline was given.

"They're in a facility that's taking care of their needs, from medical to emotional to operational security," McGuire said.

"Though they have different physical needs, they've grown together and they want to stay together."

The Marines who rescued the POWs also have developed strong emotional bonds to the former captives. They refused to leave them for the first day, even after doctors had their new patients under care. The Marines sat outside, leaving only to check their weapons into the armory.

Eventually, the Marines were persuaded to visit a military store to buy goodies for their buddies back on the front lines, said Maj. Cookie Wilson, a military spokeswoman. They wolfed down a bucket of Kentucky Fried Chicken brought to them by medical staff, then had their first showers after a month in the desert.

None of the former POWs will return to immediate duty with their units, even for those who have not been physically injured.

"That's not part of the process," Wilson said. "Their mission is done, and they're going home."

## \$1M reward for POW tips

KUWAIT CITY — Kuwait offered a \$1 million reward Wednesday for information that would help uncover the fate of more than 600 Kuwaitis and others missing since Iraq invaded the emirate in 1990.

In a statement announced by state-run Kuwait Radio, the Cabinet said the information must be "accurate and certain" and must "lead to the fate of those innocent prisoners and to their safe return."

A U.S.-led coalition drove Iraqi forces out of Kuwait in February 1991 after Iraq occupied its oil-rich neighbor for seven months. Kuwait has accused Baghdad of continuing to hold these prisoners in its jails, something Iraqi President Saddam Hussein's regime has denied.

Kuwaitis are hoping that Iraqis or coalition forces will find these prisoners in jails abandoned after the fall of Saddam's government.

There have been many unconfirmed media reports about prisoners found.

Families of these prisoners say their loved ones were arrested from hospitals, mosques and streets.

From The Associated Press



## Palace of Saddam's son reveals high life

BY NIKO PRICE

*The Associated Press*

BAGHDAD, Iraq — His personal zoo has lions, cheetahs and a bear. His storehouse has \$1 million in fine wines, liquor and heroin. His house has Cuban cigars, cases of champagne and downloaded pictures of prostitutes.

While most Iraqis suffered under the U.N. sanctions that drove their country into poverty, Saddam Hussein's 39-year-old son, Oday, lived a life of fast cars, expensive liquor and easy women, a tour through his bombed house showed Monday.

The walls of a gym were plastered with photographs of women downloaded from the Internet — "the biggest collection of naked women I'd ever seen," said Army Capt. Ed Ballanco, of Montville, N.J. "It looked like something at the Playboy Mansion."

Also found were photos of President Bush's 21-year-old daughters, Jenna and Barbara, "dressed up very nice in evening clothes," Ballanco said. He said soldiers took them "to protect the president."

Oday Hussein's compound is in a back corner of the Presidential Palace compound, a small city that boasts six-lane avenues, traffic lights and a hospital. U.S. soldiers who now occupy the grounds say they believe Oday's portion included a house, a warehouse, a gym, a gaudy house for women and a zoo.

Scattered among the debris from a bomb that tore through Oday's house and exploded in a bunker below lay stationery with Oday's name in gold lettering, photographs of Oday and dozens of copies of Oday's doctoral dissertation, "The World After the Cold War."

The house also indicated Oday's sybaritic side, something Iraqi dissenters have told of for decades: a hunger for alcohol, drugs and lots and lots of women.

There were bottles of Cuervo 1800 tequila, Danska vodka and Delamain cognac, as well as Chimay, Corona and Miller Genuine Draft beers.

There were bags and boxes of pills and medicines everywhere — ginseng sexual fortifiers, heartburn medication and Prozac — and an Accu-Rite HIV Antibodies Screening Test Kit in Oday's office.

An e-mail dated Dec. 22, 2000, and signed by a Dr. Jean-Jacques Barraud, instructed "His Excellency" to undergo electrotherapy for a knee injury and to swim and ride horses for no more than 40 minutes a day. It prescribed a regimen of daily exercise.

In 1996, gunmen sprayed bullets at Oday's Porsche, leaving him with a bullet in his spine that forced him to walk with a cane.

The house was filled with boxes of handguns and piles of magazines, including "Guns and Ammo" and "Guns," as well as Spanish car magazines and catalogs of Jet Skis.

Ballanco said there were also six bags of heroin. He didn't know how much they held.

"There are UNICEF boxes in there with kids' school supplies meant for the children of Iraq, yet these jerks took it," said Maj. Kent Rideout, 39, of San Antonio, Texas.

Oday's obsession with sex was evident everywhere. The house was adorned with paintings of naked women, as well as bundles of Internet printouts of what appeared to be prostitutes, complete with handwritten ratings of each. One black book listed hundreds of women's names and phone numbers.

Three German shepherds who guarded the compound have been adopted by soldiers, who feed them military rations. For the wilder animals, soldiers have been throwing in sheep from a nearby pen, said Spc. Pete Adams, of Lexington, Va.

## Navy academy net abuse

The U.S. Naval Academy has disciplined 85 students who used a military Internet connection to illegally swap copyrighted music and movies, but it stopped short of carrying out its threat to impose the maximum penalties of expulsion or court-martial, an academy document shows.

The midshipmen, whose computers were seized in a widely publicized raid on Nov. 21, received sanctions ranging from demerits and extra work assignments to loss of privileges and leave, according to a summary of cases obtained by The Baltimore Sun and an academy official who spoke on condition of anonymity.

The midshipmen had used the Annapolis, Md., military college's super-fast T3 Internet line to trade music and movies, a violation of Defense Department policy and federal copyright laws. Some had attached large-capacity disk drives to their computers, turning their dorm room terminals into what one academy official described as bustling Napster-like entertainment bazaars that operated around the clock and became magnets for file swappers around the country.

The academy's decision to seize the computers of 92 midshipmen was the most dramatic step by a college or university to halt illegal file trading by students.

From wire reports

# U.S. boycotts of French items starting to pinch

BY ROBERT J. MCCARTNEY

*The Washington Post*

PARIS — An American backlash against French products and businesses has started to bite, dashing hopes here that appeals in the United States to punish France economically for opposing the war in Iraq would go unheeded.

American importers of French wine are reporting sharp drops in sales in the past two months, and other French products also have been affected. The Federation of Wine Exporters has called a meeting Thursday to discuss how to respond.

The nation's principal business federation took the unusual step of publicly acknowledging the problem, conceding Tuesday that sales, recruitment and business contacts have been hurt. It appealed to consumers and businesses to keep political differences from affecting commerce.

"Certain French enterprises are suffering today from the differences that have arisen among states over the Iraqi question," the Movement of French Enterprises, or Medef, said. "It is necessary to say to those who are unhappy with the positions of French diplomacy that they are free to criticize, but they must keep products and services of our enterprises outside their quarrel."

Medef President Ernest-Antoine Seilliere said at a news conference that the effects were "measured" but that contracts had been lost because of anti-French feeling in the United States. He declined to identify the companies affected.

The business federation provided no figures on the effect on French exports to the United States, which last year were valued at \$28.4 billion.

The French government and business community had hoped that U.S. "francophobia" would dissipate quickly without hurting trade. Both fear that French companies will be excluded from contracts in rebuilding Iraq.

The widespread view in Paris had been that calls in the U.S. media and from some politicians for commercial retaliation against the French were having little or no effect.

The news that the boycott is significant will also increase pressure on President Jacques Chirac from business and some members of his party to mend relations with Washington.

## French: We're 'best' ally

*The Associated Press*

PARIS — President Jacques Chirac's ruling party followed up on the French leader's effort to make amends with the United States, saying Wednesday that Paris was Washington's "best ally" in the fight against terrorism.

The comments came a day after Chirac sought to repair ties frayed by the war in Iraq by telephoning President Bush. It was the first time the two leaders had spoken in more than two months.

"We continue to think, as paradoxical as it might sound, that we are the best allies of the Americans, because we are preoccupied by the same reality — terrorism," said Renaud Donnedieu de Vabres, the spokesman of Chirac's Union for a Popular Movement, or UMP.

Chirac told Bush in a 20-minute phone conversation Tuesday that France was willing to adopt a "pragmatic approach" on postwar issues, according to Chirac's spokeswoman, Catherine Colonna.

The French leader also welcomed the fall of Saddam Hussein's regime and the brevity of the war that ousted the Iraqi leader, Colonna said, adding that Chirac expressed condolences for American deaths in the conflict.

The French Foreign Ministry on Tuesday declined to comment on the French business federation's statement, saying the government didn't respond to private declarations.

The American backlash apparently is having little or no impact on business with Germany, the other major European country that actively opposed the war. A survey by the Association of German Chambers of Commerce and Industry of more than 300 German companies doing business in the United States found no effect.

U.S. importers of French products said the effect has been significant. Guillaume Touton, a Frenchman who is president of wine distributor Monsieur Touton Selection Ltd. in New York, said anti-French feeling cost him \$500,000 in sales last month.

## Chem-bio Q&A

*The Associated Press*

Some questions and answers about the weapons U.S. soldiers are looking for, and what they've found so far:

**Q:** What type of chemical weapons is Saddam alleged to have had?

**A:** According to the United States, Saddam had 20 or 30 Scud missiles capable of carrying chemical or biological weapons. And officials say Saddam's military may have had 550 artillery shells containing mustard gas, other precursors that could have brought his stockpile up to 500 tons of chemical agents, and 6,500 bombs left over from Iraq's war with Iran.

Aside from that, officials contend the Iraqi government had at least seven mobile biological weapons labs mounted on road trailers and railroad cars. These facilities, they argue, could have been used to produce, in one month, enough of a dry biological agent such as anthrax or botulinum toxin to kill thousands.

**Q:** What have U.S. soldiers found so far?

**A:** They have found several suspected chemical or biological weapons sites, but testing revealed those sites were used for other purposes, such as explosives, pesticides or agricultural products. On Monday, Army troops located 11 buried shipping containers filled with laboratory equipment and documents — which were determined Tuesday not to be part of a chemical or biological weapons lab, according to CNN's Web site.

Not all the tests results are in, though.

On Tuesday, U.S. Special Forces searching a house in north Baghdad on a tip found a weapons cache with a sizable laboratory. They also found documents they described as papers on making chemical and biological weapons.

## Weapons

**Continued from Page 1**

Administration officials said one of the many dangers of chemical and biological weapons is that thousands of people could be killed with very small amounts — quantities that could also be easily hidden, or possibly destroyed.

Officials said they have found tons of military equipment, including airplanes, buried beneath the sand, and they said they believe illegal weapons and the laboratories to make them will have been hidden in such a manner.

At least one such lead turned up dry Tuesday. An Army general told CNN that partly buried cargo containers found last week turned out not to be mobile chemical and biological weapons labs.

Saying, "We have to be very patient," Brooks said: "It will take time to uncover things that are deliberately hidden."

Finding weapons may be less important to Bush's standing at home; a New York Times poll taken over the weekend found that a majority of Americans will consider the war a success even if no chemical or biological weapons are found. But overseas, the issue is still crucial.

Nations that opposed the invasion have suggested that the Bush administration used weapons of a mass destruction as an excuse to launch a first strike at Saddam, in an attempt to restructure the entire Middle East.

**Q:** What do U.S. commanders have to say about the fact that Saddam didn't use chemical weapons against U.S. troops as they thought he would?

**A:** "The fact that they've not been used yet is a success story. It's not the story of failure by any means," Brig. Gen. Vincent Brooks said Tuesday. "Now the work of removing the weapons of mass destruction can begin in earnest."

## BASEBALL

CHICAGO — Umpire Laz Diaz was attacked by a fan who came out of the stands during a game between the Kansas City Royals and Chicago White Sox in a frightening reminder of what happened last year at Comiskey Park.

Security and players immediately came to the aid of Diaz, the first base umpire, and the man was quickly taken away.

Immediately after Carlos Lee flied out to end Chicago's eighth inning, the fan ran on the field and tried to tackle Diaz, wrapping his arms around the umpire's legs.

It was the first appearance by the Royals in Chicago since former first base coach Tom Gamboa was pummeled by a father and son who came out of the stands in September.

PITTSBURGH — Pittsburgh Pirates outfielder Brian Giles initially asked for a second medical opinion on his injured right knee, then withdrew the request a few hours later.

Giles, the Pirates' top offensive player for four years, was diagnosed with a sprained medial collateral ligament after being hurt sliding into second base Thursday against Milwaukee. Giles initially felt a twinge in the knee, but didn't have any pain until waking up Friday.

He was placed on the 15-day disabled list Saturday, and the initial prognosis was he would be ready to play after two-to-four weeks of rehabilitation.

## Sports in brief

### COLLEGE BASKETBALL

PITTSBURGH — Pittsburgh assistant Jamie Dixon will succeed Ben Howland as the Panthers' basketball coach.

Dixon has never been a head coach at any level, and he was initially passed over when the school tried to hire Skip Prosser of Wake Forest.

The 37-year-old Dixon interviewed recently for head coaching vacancies at Wright State and Illinois State. He also was interviewed by Texas-El Paso in November.

Howland left Pitt to become UCLA's coach less than a week after the Panthers' NCAA tournament loss to Marquette on March 27.

BOWLING GREEN, Ky. — Former Western Kentucky player Darrin Horn was hired as coach of the Hilltoppers.

Horn was an assistant under Marquette coach Tom Crean for four seasons; Crean was an assistant with the Hilltoppers during Horn's first three years as a player.

The 30-year-old Horn replaces Dennis Felton, who left to become coach at Georgia last week after five seasons.

Horn was a guard for Western Kentucky from 1992-95, when the Hilltoppers went 94-32 and played in the NCAA tournament three times under coach Ralph Willard.

CLEVELAND — Michigan State assis-

tant Mike Garland will succeed Rolie Massimino as head basketball coach at Cleveland State.

The university plans to introduce Garland at a news conference.

He was selected after former Clemson coach Larry Shyatt withdrew his name from consideration.

The 48-year-old Garland has been an assistant at Michigan State for seven years. Brian Gregory, another aide to Tom Izzo, left the Spartans last week to become head coach at Dayton.

### BASKETBALL

NEW YORK — Knicks coach Don Chaney agreed to a two-year contract extension that will keep him in New York through the 2005-06 season.

The Knicks made the announcement before their final game of the season. They have missed the playoffs in their two seasons under Chaney after reaching the postseason for 14 consecutive years.

### HOCKEY

TORONTO — Veteran left winger Shayne Corson left the Toronto Maple Leafs, ending a season marred by illness and waning production.

Corson, a healthy scratch in Toronto's 4-3 double-overtime victory over

Philadelphia on Monday night, apparently told coach and General Manager Pat Quinn after the game that he was leaving the team and would not return.

### TENNIS

AMELIA ISLAND, Fla. — Jennifer Capriati, who had eye surgery in December, wasn't as aggressive as she would have liked. But she was good enough to beat Marie-Gaïrneh Mikaelian 6-4, 7-6 (5) in the second round of the Bausch & Lomb Championships.

Capriati (No. 3) was one of seven seeded players in action, and the first six won their matches. No. 2 Lindsay Davenport beat Nicole Pratt 6-1, 6-0; No. 4 Daniela Hantuchova beat Akiko Morigami 7-5, 6-2; No. 8 Amanda Coetzer beat Vera Zvonareva 7-5, 4-6, 6-0; No. 12 Lisa Raymond beat Julia Vakulenko 6-1, 3-6, 6-1; No. 14 Clarisa Fernandez beat Jill Craybas 6-7 (6), 6-4, 6-2; and No. 16 Alexandra Stevenson beat Els Callens 7-5, 6-3.

### COLLEGE SPORTS

FRESNO, Calif. — Fresno State will cut four sports from its athletic program as part of a plan to get out of a seven-year operating deficit.

Athletic director Scott Johnson said the men's soccer, indoor track and field and cross country teams, and the women's swimming and diving teams would be discontinued.

**Continued on Page 7**

## Patriotic singer reaps benefits

These days, patriotism pays.

Ask **Darryl Worley**. The country singer sold moderate quantities of his first two albums. But when he released his pro-military single "Have You Forgotten?" it shot to No. 1 on Billboard's Country Song chart the very week the war in Iraq began.

That's the fastest ascent to that chart's peak since **Garth Brooks'** "Longneck Bottle" made the trip five years ago.

Worley's new album, which hit stores Tuesday, also is titled "Have You Forgotten?" — and just in case anyone has, its cover features the 39-year-old singer from **Hardin County, Tenn.**, standing in front of a waving American flag. Another shot of Old Glory unfurls on the back.

There also are pictures of the strapping, 6-foot-6 Worley in battle fatigues plastered all over the CD's booklet, not to mention a printed message dedicating the whole package to the military.

"It's pretty in your face," Worley admits.

So are the single's lyrics.

"I hear people saying we don't need this war  
I say there are some things worth fighting for ...  
Have you forgotten when the towers fell?

We had neighbors still inside going through a living hell

And you say we shouldn't worry 'bout Bin Laden  
Have you forgotten?"

Worley has come under fire for such lines, which draw a direct link involving Osama, 9/11 and Saddam

## Faces 'n' places

**Hussein**. While at first the singer denies that his words make that controversial connection, he adds, "the real deal is that Saddam supports international terrorism. We've known that for years. That's enough of a connection for me."

The singer says he wrote the song after playing for troops in Afghanistan last holiday season.

As you can imagine, Worley feels country radio was justified in boycotting the **Dixie Chicks** over **Natalie Maines'** negative statements about **George Bush**. The singer said she was ashamed to be from Bush's state of Texas.

"It's a very un-American remark, and I don't think people should say things like that at a time of war," he says.

### MTV Movie award nods

**Tobey Maguire** and **Viggo Mortensen** were nominated for best male performance, and the movies they star in — "Spider-Man" and "The Lord of the Rings: The Two Towers" — each received a leading five nominations for this year's MTV Movie Awards.

"Spider-Man" and "The Two Towers" were among the nominees Monday for best movie, along with "8 Mile," "Barbershop" and "The Ring."

**Kirsten Dunst**, who played Maguire's on-screen love interest in "Spider-Man," is up for best female

performance, and the two were recognized in the best kiss category. **Willem Dafoe**, who plays the superhero's nemesis, the Green Goblin, is up for best villain.

"The Two Towers," the second film in "The Lord of the Rings" trilogy, also was nominated for best on-screen team and best action sequence. And the film's tortured creature, **Gollum**, was nominated in a new category: best virtual performance.

Other digital creations competing against Gollum are **Yoda** from "Star Wars: Episode II — Attack of the Clones," **Kangaroo Jack** from "Kangaroo Jack," **Dobby** from "Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets" and **Scooby-Doo** from "Scooby-Doo."

The 12th annual MTV Movie Awards will be given out May 31 in Los Angeles.

### Penn's guns missing

Police found **Sean Penn's** stolen 1987 Buick Grand National, but two guns that were inside the car remain missing.

The car was found Saturday in **Richmond, Calif.**, about nine miles from the **Berkeley** street where it was stolen last week.

A loaded 9 mm Glock handgun and a .38-caliber Smith and Wesson revolver that were left inside haven't been found, **Richmond** police **Sgt. Enos Johnson** said.

The three-time Academy Award nominee had a permit for the guns, police said.

From wire services

## 3rd woman accuses man

SYRACUSE, N.Y. — A third woman has said she was held as a prisoner for more than a year in the 1990s by a 67-year-old retired handyman in a concrete dungeon under his yard, police said.

The woman, a runaway who was 13 or 14 years old when she allegedly was taken captive by John T. Jamelske in 1995 or 1996, picked the suspect out of a series of photos, Onondaga County Sheriff Kevin Walsh said Tuesday.

She also provided details of her ordeal and an accurate description of the secret two-room dungeon, which Jamelske built in the late 1980s near his basement, Walsh said.

Jamelske was charged a week ago with kidnapping, imprisoning and raping a 16-year-old girl police said he kept captive for six months at his property in the Syracuse suburb of DeWitt. The girl was rescued last week.

After Jamelske's arrest, a 28-year-old woman came forward with a similar story about being held captive for a two-month span. She said she was blindfolded and released after being driven to another location. A grand jury will be presented with evidence in that case and will determine if further charges be filed, Sgt. John D'Eridita said Wednesday.

Jamelske, whose wife died in 1999, is being held without bail.

Police have interviewed a possible fourth victim who said she was imprisoned for more than two

years starting in 1988. D'Eridita couldn't say when investigators will complete interviews with her.

## Congress OKs new nickel look

WASHINGTON — More change is coming to more change.

The design of the nickel likely will change for the first time since 1938 in honor of the Louisiana Purchase and the Lewis and Clark expedition, under legislation passed in Congress last week.

Should President Bush sign the legislation, as expected, the secretary of the Treasury would make any design decisions with the input of an 11-member citizens' advisory committee.

The new designs would grace the coins until 2006, when the traditional style would return.

## U.N. blocks censure of Russia

GENEVA — The top United Nations human rights body blocked condemnation of Russia for alleged violations by its forces in Chechnya, with critics of the motion saying censure might only fan ethnic conflict.

For the second year running, the 53-nation U.N. Human Rights Commission rejected a resolution submitted by European countries that called on Moscow to tackle abuses including forced disappearances, summary executions and torture.

Fifteen countries backed the proposal, including

eight European nations, the United States, Canada and Australia. But 21 nations voted against, among them China, Cuba, Brazil and India as well as Russia itself. Seventeen abstained.

## N. Korea-U.S. nuclear talks coming

WASHINGTON — The United States will talk with North Korea as early as next week in a meeting hosted by China, thawing chilly relations between Washington and Pyongyang over the communist nation's nuclear weapons program.

It will be the first time in six months that U.S. representatives have met face to face with North Korean officials.

## CDC: Genes not SARS solution

ATLANTA — Because the newly revealed genetic code of the suspected SARS virus doesn't have all the answers, health officials said they will have to investigate the flu-like illness the old-fashioned way.

Dr. Julie Gerberding, chief of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention said it will take "shoe-leather epidemiology" to track down the root of severe acute respiratory syndrome, or SARS.

There are 193 suspected U.S. cases but no deaths. "In the short run, I don't think the sequence data is going to tell us where it came from," Gerberding said.

From wire reports



## Bulls 115, 76ers 106

CHICAGO — Eddy Curry made his first eight shots on his way to a career-high 31 points, and Jamal Crawford matched his career best with 33 as Chicago beat Philadelphia Tuesday.

The Bulls kept the 76ers from clinching home-court advantage in the first round of the playoffs and also handed New Jersey the Atlantic Division title.

It was the third straight loss for the 76ers, who dropped into a tie with Indi-

## NBA

ana for third place in the Eastern Conference. Both teams wrap up their regular seasons Wednesday night, and the Pacers have the edge in the tiebreaker if the teams wind up with the same record.

A loss Wednesday could drop Philadelphia as low as fifth in the East.

Allen Iverson scored 42 points,

matching his high for the season, and the 76ers outrebounded the Bulls 37-29. But it wasn't enough to offset their cold shooting. Philadelphia shot just 38 percent from the floor.

## Pacers 109, Knicks 93

NEW YORK — Tim Hardaway made all

four of his shots while playing the final 16 minutes of the first half, helping Indiana clinch home-court advantage for the first round of the playoffs with a victory over New York.

Jermaine O'Neal and Ron Artest scored 23 points each, while Ron Mercer had 17 for the Pacers, who can move up to third place in the Eastern Conference if they finish tied with Philadelphia. Both teams conclude their regular seasons Wednesday.

**Continued on Page 8**

## Braves 2, Expos 1 (10)

SAN JUAN, Puerto Rico — Gary Sheffield homered leading off the ninth inning and Marcus Giles hit another starting the 10th to give Atlanta a 2-1 victory and deny Montreal its fifth straight game.

Both drives came off Dan Smith (1-1), trying to close it out because Rocky Biddle was unavailable after pitching three successive days against the Mets.

The Expos appeared ready for another island party. Tony Armas Jr. pitched seven shutout innings and Orlando Cabrera homered in the seventh inning, but Montreal, which had won five straight overall, dropped to 4-1 at Hiram Bithorn Stadium, where it plays 22 home games this season.

South Korean Jung Keun Bong (1-0) pitched the ninth for his first major league victory, and John Smoltz finished for his fourth save.

Shane Reynolds, cut by Houston in spring training, allowed five hits, struck out three and walked none, throwing 47 of 72 pitches for strikes in his first start since June 8.

## Cubs 11, Reds 1

CHICAGO — Sammy Sosa hit his 501st home run and Shawn Estes pitched no-hit ball through five innings as Chicago defeated Cincinnati.

## Yankees 5, Blue Jays 0

NEW YORK — Mike Mussina allowed three hits in eight innings as New York beat Toronto for the best start in Yankees franchise history.

Jorge Posada homered and Bernie Williams had three hits and two RBIs for the Yankees, who have won 11 of 13 to open the season for the first time.

After a 10-9 victory Monday night, when New York used five relievers for 4 2/3 innings, Manager Joe Torre was counting on a long outing from Mussina (3-0).

Mussina struck out nine and beat the Blue Jays for the seventh straight time since joining the Yankees. Toronto has lost six in a row.

## Red Sox 6, Devil Rays 5

BOSTON — Shea Hillenbrand broke a ninth-inning tie with his fourth hit of the game as Boston withstood a bullpen collapse to beat Tampa Bay.

Boston took a 5-1 lead before Ramiro Mendoza gave it all back in the eighth without retiring a batter. But in the ninth, Boston loaded the bases with one out and Hillenbrand hit a single up the middle to win it against Al Levine (1-1).

Mike Timlin (2-0) inherited a 5-3 lead and two baserunners from Mendoza and gave up the tying, two-run single to pinch-hitter Marlon Anderson. But Timlin retired the next five batters to prevent further damage and earn the victory.

## National League

Mark Bellhorn and Hee Seop Choi of South Korea also homered for the Cubs, who took advantage of a 24-mph wind to hit three home runs.

Estes (1-1) retired the first nine batters before walking Felipe Lopez to open the fourth. He also hit Sean Casey in that inning, but escaped by getting Austin Kearns to hit into a double play.

Estes worked eight innings, allowing one run and five hits.

The Cubs sent 11 batters to the plate in the fourth inning, when they scored five runs. Sosa, who hit his 500th homer against Cincinnati on April 4 but had not hit one since, connected against Reds starter Danny Graves (0-2).

## Mets 3, Pirates 1

PITTSBURGH — Tom Glavine's third consecutive strong start and Jeremy Burnitz's two-run homer led New York past Pittsburgh, ending their six-game losing streak.

Struggling closer Armando Benitez, who blew three leads in the past nine days, worked a scoreless ninth for his fourth save.

Glavine (2-1) limited the Pirates to three singles over 6 1/3 innings, striking out five and walking three. Glavine, im-

proving to 19-12 against Pittsburgh, even struck out Jason Kendall — the first time he's done that in 28 at-bats.

Burnitz was 3-for-4 with a pair of singles off Josh Fogg (1-2) as the Mets bounced back after being outscored 22-8 during Montreal's four-game week-end sweep in Puerto Rico.

## Phillies 4, Marlins 3

PHILADELPHIA — Jimmy Rollins hit a three-run homer in the seventh inning to lead Philadelphia over Florida.

David Bell and Jim Thome preserved the victory with a stellar defensive play. With two outs and runners on second and third base in the ninth inning, Alex Gonzalez hit a smash to third that Bell backhanded. He one-hopped his throw to first, but Thome made a sensational pickup to end it.

The Phillies have won four straight games and six of eight, while Florida has lost three in succession after winning four straight.

The benches emptied in the seventh after Marlins starter Josh Beckett (1-2) hit Placido Polanco on the right hand with a 2-1 fastball that followed Rollins' homer. No punches were thrown, and Polanco stayed in until the inning ended. He left with a bruised right ring finger.

## American League

## Indians 8, Orioles 3

CLEVELAND — Matt Lawton hit a three-run homer to help rookie pitcher Jason Davis and Cleveland defeat Baltimore.

Orioles starter Omar Daal was ejected for hitting Lawton in the back with a pitch in the fifth inning. Lawton simply picked up the ball and good-naturedly flipped it back to the left-hander.

Davis (1-2) allowed three runs and eight hits in seven innings.

Milton Bradley and Shane Spencer had three hits each for Cleveland. The Indians got five hits in a four-run fourth inning off Daal (0-2), capped by Lawton's second homer.

Bradley extended his season-opening hitting streak to 13 games.

## Royals 8, White Sox 5

CHICAGO — Mike Sweeney hit a two-run homer and Brandon Berger added a two-run single in the ninth inning as Kansas City rallied to beat Chicago.

Joe Randa also homered for the Royals, who scored four times in the ninth inning to run their record to 11-1 — their best start ever.

Frank Thomas homered in the bottom of the eighth to give the White Sox a 5-4 lead. The benches emptied in the first inning when Royals starter Miguel

Asencio hit Thomas with a pitch for the second time this season. No punches were thrown.

Billy Koch (1-1) took the loss after blowing the save.

Albie Lopez (2-0) got the victory.

## Rangers 5, Angels 4

ARLINGTON, Texas — Ryan Christenson had a two-run double hours after being called up from the minor leagues, and Einar Diaz added a two-run single in a five-run fourth inning as Texas beat Anaheim.

Rookie Colby Lewis (2-0) fell behind 2-0 after three innings, then took advantage of the Rangers' big fourth against Jarrod Washburn (1-2), allowing three runs and seven hits in six innings.

Lewis, walked four and struck out two.

The Rangers' bullpen took over in the seventh, and reliever Aaron Fultz gave up a leadoff homer to Darin Erstad to make it 5-4.

But Fultz and Ugueth Urbina, who got the final four outs for his fifth save in as many chances — combined to allow one hit over the final 2 2/3 shutout innings.

## Twins 6, Tigers 4

MINNEAPOLIS — Torii Hunter broke his slump by going 2-for-4 with a

homer, helping Minnesota beat Detroit for the 12th straight time.

Cristian Guzman went 2-for-3 with two walks and an RBI triple for the Twins, who won their fourth successive game since six consecutive losses.

Carlos Pena gave the scoring-starved Tigers a lift and a brief lead with a two-run homer in the fourth, but they fell to 1-11 and dropped the first of a 12-game road trip.

Eddie Guardado worked the ninth inning for his fifth save in as many tries. Hunter, who began the game with one hit in his past 20 at-bats, led off the second with his first homer of the year since signing a four-year, \$32 million contract in January.

## Mariners 5, Athletics 3

SEATTLE — John Olerud's RBI double in the eighth inning lead Seattle to a victory over Oakland for its fourth consecutive victory.

Seattle's Edgar Martinez, in his third game back after missing a week with a strained left hamstring, was 3-for-4 with two RBIs.

Arthur Rhodes (1-0) pitched 1 1/3 innings for the victory and Japan's Kazuhiro Sasaki worked a perfect ninth — striking out two — for his third save in four opportunities.

After a 7-1 start, the A's lost their sixth successive game.

Eric Chavez and Mark Ellis homered for Oakland.

From The Associated Press

**Continued from Page 6**

## MARATHON

BOSTON — Marla Runyan will be accompanied along the Boston Marathon route by a race official who will provide course information to the legally blind runner.

Runyan, the top-ranked American female marathoner, will get split times and verbal notification of water stations from the official, who will ride a bike near her in the race. The official

also will alert her to potential course hazards and turns, officials said.

Runyan, a 34-year-old runner who lives in Eugene, Ore., also might get details about the proximity of competi-

tors who are visible to the other elite competitors. The bike-riding official will begin offering information at about the one-mile mark and continue throughout the race. The official will stay with Runyan through the final turn only if she is in the lead or has a chance of winning.

From The Associated Press

## Sports in brief continued

## NHL

### Lightning 4, Capitals 3 (OT)

WASHINGTON — Vincent Lecavalier scored on a two-man advantage in overtime Tuesday as Tampa Bay ended 4½ years of frustration in the U.S. capital with a 4-3 victory over Washington.

With Jaromir Jagr and Ken Klee in the penalty box, Lecavalier poked in a rebound 2:29 into the extra period.

The victory reduced the Capitals' first-round playoff series lead to 2-1 and snapped an 11-game Lightning losing streak at the MCI Center. Tampa Bay's last road victory over Washington came on Nov. 4, 1998.

After a game in which the playoff-inexperienced Lightning again took too many needless penalties, it was the Capitals who were caught short. Jagr was called for roughing and Klee was caught elbowing Dave Andreychuk in the head in overtime.

After the winning goal, the first in 11 power-play chances in the series for the Lightning, the fans vented their frustration at the officials by littering the ice with bottles and other items.

### Bruins 5, Devils 1

BOSTON — Dan McGillis scored twice as Boston finally beat Martin Brodeur and New Jersey, driving the goalie from the game and staying alive.

Brodeur allowed just three goals as the Devils won the first three games. But in Game 4, he was replaced by Corey Schwab 3:37 into the third period

after Boston scored twice in two minutes.

Boston's Jeff Hackett allowed only a goal by Scott Niedermayer at 1:37 of the third period as the Bruins forced a fifth game in the best-of-seven opening round.

For the second time in just over a month, Brodeur was benched in Boston. On March 12, he was pulled by coach Pat Burns 10 minutes into the second period after Lapointe scored three goals in 5:15 of a 4-3 Bruins victory.

On Tuesday, Hackett was the star in net as he turned aside 24 shots and won for only the third time in eight playoff decisions.

Brodeur has 70 postseason victories.

### Stars 3, Oilers 1

EDMONTON, Alberta — Stu Barnes scored the winning goal on a bank shot from behind the net as the Dallas beat Edmonton to tie the Western Conference playoff series 2-2.

Barnes' goal, which careened off the skate of Oilers captain Jason Smith past goaltender Tommy Salo, gave the Stars a 2-1 lead just 3:45 after the Oilers tied the game early in the third period. Barnes' first goal of the playoffs at 5:52 of the third period was set up by Jere Lehtinen and Rob DiMaio.

Rookie Niko Kapanen clinched it 23 seconds later. Kapanen roared across the front of the net and backhanded the puck past Salo.

The series heads back to Dallas for Game 5 on Thursday.

From The Associated Press

## NBA continued

### Continued from Page 7

Hardaway had 12 points, four assists and three rebounds before sitting out the entire second half. The Pacers outscored New York 48-36 when the 36-year-old playmaker was on the floor.

Lee Nailon and Shandon Anderson scored 13 points each to lead the Knicks, who learned earlier in the day that coach Don Chaney was given a two-year contract extension that will keep him with the club through the 2005-06 season.

The Knicks finished 37-45, a seven-game improvement on last season, when they missed the playoffs for the first time in 15 years.

### Raptors 103, Heat 99

TORONTO — Rasual Butler scored 19 points and Mike James added 15 for Miami's victory, in what was probably the final home game for Toronto coach Lenny Wilkens Wilkens, a Hall of Famer who holds the NBA coaching record for both wins and losses, is expected to be fired after the season.

The Raptors, who ended the season 25-57, play their final game in Cleveland on Wednesday.

Morris Peterson had a career-high 33 for the Raptors. The injury-riddled Raptors have lost seven straight, and they played just seven players against Miami.

### Rockets 97, Grizzlies 86

HOUSTON — Steve Francis scored 19 points as Houston beat Memphis in the Rockets' final game at Compaq Center before moving to a \$202 million downtown arena next season.

The Rockets won the first game played at Compaq Center and they were never in trouble in winning their last game, using a 20-5 spurt to end the first quarter with a comfortable lead. Houston is 42-39, but did not make the playoffs.

The Rockets compiled a 747-383 record in 28 seasons at Compaq Center for a .661 percentage. They have a 56-36 home playoff record that helped them win NBA championships in 1994 and 1995.

James Posey has 16 points and a season-high 15 rebounds and Cuttino Mobley added 18 points. Terence Morris had a career-high 17 points.

Shane Battier led the Grizzlies with 15 points.

### Trail Blazers 120, Suns 102

PORTLAND, Ore. — Stand-in center Zach Randolph scored 27 points as Portland routed Phoenix after losing its first three games against the Suns this season.

Randolph was starting for injured center Dale Davis, while Portland saw the return of veteran guard Scottie Pippen, who was sidelined for 17 games after knee surgery.

The victory helped Portland in its heated scramble with the Minnesota Timberwolves and the Los Angeles Lakers for the fourth, fifth and sixth seeds in the Western Conference.

Phoenix clinched the eighth playoff spot in the West and will face the West's top seed.

Joe Johnson had 26 points for the Suns, who had won four straight games.

### Lakers 126, Nuggets 104

LOS ANGELES — Kobe Bryant scored 20 of his 32 points in the first quarter, and Shaquille O'Neal added 19 points as Los Angeles defeated Denver.

The victory was the seventh in eight games for the three-time defending NBA champions, but they lost any chance of getting home-court advantage in the first round of the playoffs when Portland beat Phoenix.

The Lakers will finish fifth or sixth in the Western Conference, depending on Wednesday's results in the final games of the regular season. They open the playoffs Saturday or Sunday at Dallas, Minnesota or Portland.

Rookie Jannero Pargo scored a career-high 18 points for the Lakers, who won their 15th straight home game.

Juwan Howard scored 19 points and Marcus Camby had 17 points and 14 rebounds for the Nuggets, who have lost seven straight games and 13 of their past 16.

From The Associated Press

## Scores/standings

### American League

East Division				GB
	W	L	Pct	
New York	11	2	.846	—
Boston	8	5	.615	3
Tampa Bay	5	8	.385	6
Toronto	5	9	.357	6½
Baltimore	4	8	.333	6½

Central Division				GB
	W	L	Pct	
Kansas City	11	1	.917	—
Chicago	7	6	.538	4½
Minnesota	7	6	.538	4½
Cleveland	5	8	.385	6½
Detroit	1	11	.083	10

West Division				GB
	W	L	Pct	
Seattle	8	6	.571	—
Anaheim	7	7	.500	1
Oakland	7	7	.500	1
Texas	6	8	.429	2

#### Tuesday's games

Boston 6, Tampa Bay 5  
N.Y. Yankees 5, Toronto 0  
Cleveland 8, Baltimore 3  
Minnesota 6, Detroit 4  
Texas 5, Anaheim 4  
Kansas City 8, Chicago White Sox 5  
Seattle 5, Oakland 3

### National League

East Division				GB
	W	L	Pct	
Montreal	9	5	.643	—
Philadelphia	9	5	.643	—
Atlanta	6	8	.429	3
Florida	6	9	.400	3½
New York	5	9	.357	4

Central Division				GB
	W	L	Pct	
Chicago	8	6	.571	—
Houston	7	6	.538	½
Pittsburgh	7	6	.538	½
St. Louis	7	6	.538	½
Cincinnati	5	9	.357	3
Milwaukee	5	9	.357	3

West Division				GB
	W	L	Pct	
San Francisco	13	1	.929	—
Colorado	9	5	.643	4
San Diego	7	7	.500	6
Los Angeles	5	9	.357	8
Arizona	3	11	.214	10

#### Tuesday's games

Chicago Cubs 11, Cincinnati 1  
Atlanta 2, Montreal 1, 10 innings  
N.Y. Mets 3, Pittsburgh 1  
Philadelphia 4, Florida 3  
Milwaukee 6, St. Louis 1  
Colorado 12, Arizona 1  
San Diego 3, Los Angeles 2  
San Francisco 8, Houston 4

### NBA

#### EASTERN CONFERENCE

Atlantic Division				GB
	W	L	Pct	
y-New Jersey	49	32	.605	—
x-Philadelphia	47	34	.580	2
x-Boston	43	38	.531	6
x-Orlando	42	39	.519	7
Washington	37	44	.457	12
New York	37	45	.451	12½
Miami	25	57	.305	24½

#### Central Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
z-Detroit	50	31	.617	—
x-Indiana	47	34	.580	3
x-New Orleans	46	35	.568	4
x-Milwaukee	41	40	.506	9
Atlanta	35	46	.432	15
Chicago	30	52	.366	20½
Toronto	24	57	.296	26
Cleveland	16	65	.198	34

#### WESTERN CONFERENCE

Midwest Division				GB
	W	L	Pct	
z-San Antonio	60	21	.741	—
x-Dallas	59	22	.728	1
x-Minnesota	50	31	.617	10
x-Utah	47	34	.580	13
Houston	42	39	.519	18
Memphis	28	53	.346	32
Denver	17	64	.210	43

#### Pacific Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
y-Sacramento	58	23	.716	—
x-Portland	50	31	.617	8
x-L.A. Lakers	49	32	.605	9
x-Phoenix	44	37	.543	14
Seattle	39	42	.481	19
Golden State	38	43	.469	20
L.A. Clippers	26	55	.321	32

x-clinched playoff spot  
y-clinched division  
z-clinched conference

#### Tuesday's games

Miami 103, Toronto 99  
Indiana 109, New York 93  
Houston 97, Memphis 86  
Chicago 115, Philadelphia 106  
Portland 120, Phoenix 102  
L.A. Lakers 126, Denver 104

### NHL Playoffs

#### FIRST ROUND (Best-of-seven)

##### Tuesday

Boston 5, New Jersey 1, New Jersey leads series 3-1  
Tampa Bay 4, Washington 3, OT, Washington leads series 2-1  
Dallas 3, Edmonton 1, series tied 2-2

From The Associated Press

## National League continued

### Continued from Page 7

While former teammate Jeff Kent went 0-for-4, the Giants improved their best start since moving to California — and the best start in franchise history since 1918, when the New York Giants went 18-1.

Rookie Kurt Ainsworth (3-0) allowed seven hits and four runs in five innings, striking out four in just his seventh major league start. Felix Rodriguez got the final five outs for his first save.

### Rockies 12, Diamondbacks 1

PHOENIX — Shawn Chacon allowed four hits over seven-plus innings and hit his first major league home run as Colorado improved to 5-0 against the reeling Arizona this season.

Chacon (2-0) beat Arizona for the second time this season. He allowed one unearned run, struck out two, walked two and hit two batters — one of them leading to the ejection of the Diamondbacks' Danny Bautista in the third inning.

Bautista was ejected by home plate umpire Fieldin Culbreth after making a threatening gesture to Chacon with a bat. The gesture came after Chacon hit Bautista in the back with a pitch in the third.

Bautista exchanged words with the

Colorado pitcher as he walked toward first, then raised the bat like a club in one hand.

The Rockies' 9-5 start is their best since they went 10-4 in 1997. The two-time defending NL West champion Diamondbacks fell to 3-11, the worst record in the National League and second-worst in baseball, behind only Detroit's 1-11.

### Padres 3, Dodgers 2

LOS ANGELES — Jake Peavy pitched shutout ball over the first six innings, and Rondell White homered for the fourth time in six games as San Diego beat Los Angeles.

Peavy (3-0) was charged with a run and five hits over six-plus innings, striking out three and walking one. The right-hander dismissed a career-high 11 Dodgers in his season debut April 3.

Hideo Nomo (1-3) allowed three runs, nine hits and six walks in 5⅓ innings. The 34-year-old right-hander, bidding for his 100th major league victory, has lost three straight after going 15-1 over his previous 27 starts — including an 8-0 complete-game victory at Arizona on opening day.

White, who went hitless in his first 14 at-bats this season, extended his hitting streak to 10 games with one out in the fourth when he drove a 1-2 pitch into the left field pavilion to open the scoring.

From The Associated Press